

Facts About Chemical Dependency Treatment Expansion

**For information and
referrals to treatment and
recovery programs call:**

The Washington State
Alcohol and Drug 24-Hour
Helpline

1-800-562-1240

toll free

206-722-3700

Seattle

Why is DSHS investing more funding in treatment? Studies conducted by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) found that:

- 69 percent of youth and 74 percent of adults who need and qualify for chemical dependency treatment do not get it because of funding limitations.
- Treatment for drug use disorders resulted in significant Medicaid savings: \$252 per patient per month, compared to those who did not receive treatment.

Because of this data, and advocacy efforts by drug treatment professionals, the legislature and Governor Gregoire authorized an additional \$32.9 million for adult treatment services, and \$6.7 million for youth treatment services for Medicaid-eligible patients during the 2005-2007 biennium.

What are the expected outcomes?

- An estimated 11,745 more adults and 2,100 more youth will receive treatment during the biennium.
- Waiting times will be reduced for adults receiving treatment.
- The state will save an estimated \$31 million it would otherwise have to spend on medical assistance, mental health care services, and long-term care costs.

Who is eligible to receive treatment?

Youth:

- Below 200% poverty level
- Medicaid-eligible

Adults:

- **Aged, Blind and Disabled** - including Supplemental Security Income (SSI): Cash assistance and/or medical coverage for limited income and related individuals.
- **General Assistance Expedited Medicaid Disability (GAX)**: State-funded cash benefits to people who have a disability decision pending with the Social Security Administration.
- **Other Medicaid (Including Temporary Assistance To Needy Families (TANF))**: Serves clients who care for children or are pregnant. Eligible people may be receiving cash grants, eligible for TANF but choosing not to receive a cash grant, or eligible for TANF related medical-only.
- **General Assistance Unemployable (GAU)**: Cash benefits and limited medical care coverage to people who are physically and/or mentally incapacitated and unemployable for more than 90 days

How are state and local agencies helping more people access treatment?

The DSHS Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA), Medical Assistance, Children's Services, Mental Health and other DSHS offices, and their community partners, are committed to working more closely to increase referrals and assist more clients in accessing chemical dependency treatment.

How will DASA help facilitate treatment expansion?

- DASA regional teams are collaborating with their counterparts in other DSHS administrations, county and tribal alcohol and drug coordinators, and treatment providers to ensure eligible people are accessing treatment as quickly and smoothly as possible.
- DASA is distributing information about treatment expansion, screening, intervention and referral to social and health services providers and related organizations throughout the state.



We are the faces of addiction – and the faces of recovery. We got help, and we got better. We are young and old, black and white man and woman, old and young. We are just like you in so many ways. We are your neighbors.

Recovery is *everywhere*.

How are people referred to treatment?

- DASA has given approval for providers of adult residential and outpatient chemical dependency treatment to give chemical dependency assessments. This will allow Medicaid-eligible clients to be referred to an inpatient treatment facility without going through the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Support Act (ADATSA) eligibility process.
- DSHS funds the Alcohol/Drug Helpline to provide information and referrals to assessment entities and treatment agencies. They can be reached at (206) 722-3700, toll free outside of Seattle: 800-562-1240, or www.adhl.org. The Helpline also provides a teenline (www.theteenline.org) and free drug education materials (<http://clearinghouse@adhl.org>)
- Youth clients and their families needing assessment and treatment services can contact county-funded outpatient treatment agencies, and contracted youth residential and detoxification programs located throughout the state. Screening and referral may also occur at some schools that have Prevention/Intervention Specialists. Several helpful publications are available: *A Guide for Parents: Chemical Dependency Treatment Options for Minors Under Age 18*; and *Referral and Resource Guide for Adolescent Chemical Dependency Treatment*. Both publications are available from the Washington State Alcohol/Drug Clearinghouse: 1-800-662-9111 or clearinghouse@adhl.org, and online: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/dasa/default.shtml>.

Who do I call if an eligible person has difficulty accessing treatment?

- Call the Alcohol/Drug Help Line (1-800-562-1240) or your county/tribal alcohol/drug coordinator: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/hrsa/dasa/2004-11APPNDX-A.pdf>.
- An online directory of treatment providers, by county, is available at: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/dasa/services/certification/GB.shtml>.

Treatment Works!



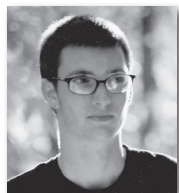
"My life has meaning and purpose, and I am enjoying every moment of it. I am a healthy and responsible person today, and committed to my recovery. I have been employed for 11 years with the same recovery organization, helping others regain their health"

– Robert Calahan, King County



"Last October I celebrated three years of recovery. My four children are very proud of their mother, and I am setting a good example for them. I can show them that there is life without alcohol or other drugs, and that I actually have a life now!"

– Carla Carlsen, Kitsap County



"I have been sober for seven months and got straight A's the first quarter. I am on track to graduate with my class in June. I hope through telling my story that I can help others to know that treatment really does work."

– Matt Folden, Chelan County



Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse
www1.dshs.wa.gov/dasa